

## NEWS & NOTES

### Tax assistance office now open

A free income tax preparation assistance service is now available for all U.S. identification cardholders in Garmisch. Services include preparing and electronically filing federal income tax returns and preparing paper returns for state taxes.

For more information or to make an appointment call 442-2516/civ. 08821-759-516 or e-mail [bruce.gittinger@garmisch.army.mil](mailto:bruce.gittinger@garmisch.army.mil).

### Burke Center hosts evening of Python

The Pete Burke Center on Artillery Kaserne is sponsoring an evening of Monty Python March 2, beginning at 7 p.m. Highlights include classic videos, drinks and snacks, and a Python trivia contest.

For more information – or to request a favorite episode – e-mail [jessica.roberson@garmisch.army.mil](mailto:jessica.roberson@garmisch.army.mil).

### Morning yoga moves to Mondays

The Burke Center's morning yoga class has moved to Mondays, 9 to 10:30 a.m. The afternoon class is Wednesdays, 5:45 to 7:15 p.m.

For more information or to register for a class e-mail [jessica.roberson@garmisch.army.mil](mailto:jessica.roberson@garmisch.army.mil).

### ACS needs volunteer service reports

With the Garrison's annual volunteer luncheon on the horizon, it is essential that all volunteers report their hours. Call 442-2777/civ. 08821-759-777 or via e-mail at [patricia.howe@garmisch.army.mil](mailto:patricia.howe@garmisch.army.mil).



Michael Meyer

**Students from the Garmisch-Partenkirchen Volkshochschule visit the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies Jan. 22. For the past three years the Marshall Center has hosted adult education students for tours of the facility and a review of the center's mission.**

## Marshall Center hosts students from area Volkshochschule

By Kim Walz

Marshall Center Public Affairs Office

Thirty members of a German adult education class in Garmisch-Partenkirchen visited the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies Jan. 22 to learn about the center's mission and its impact throughout the region.

The tour, which has been a regular part of the Volkshochschule for almost three years, began as a one-time visit. However, the first group of students was so impressed with the visit that the school added an orientation tour to its regular curriculum.

On a quarterly basis, 30 members of the local community sign up to learn what goes on behind the walls of the Marshall Center.

"Most members of the local community know who we are, but not what we do," said German Air Force Master Sgt. Michael Meyer of the Marshall Center Public Affairs Office.

"We wanted to open our doors to them, explain our mission and why it's important, and let them know how much we appreciate their support," Meyer said. "They have welcomed us into their community for 10 years, and we want to open our doors to them as well."

The adult education tour began at the front gate of

*"We wanted to open our doors, explain our mission, and let them know how much we appreciate their support"*

**Master Sgt. Michael Meyer**  
Marshall Center Public Affairs Office

Sheridan Kaserne at the George C. Marshall statue.

Meyer gave them a history of the statue and the Marshall Plan and a background of the Kaserne.

They then took a tour of the research library and fitness center, and viewed a typical dorm room for one of 600 students from 51 nations who come to the Marshall Center every year.

After the tour, the group viewed a video of the Marshall Center mission.

"Whatever perceptions they had of the Marshall Center before they came, there is no doubt they leave with a better understanding and appreciation for the work we do here," Meyer said. "It is German and American relations at its best."

The class is just one of several community relations initiatives conducted by the Marshall Center.

The Marshall Center also conducts a "Bring Your German Friend to the Marshall Center" program, in which employees bring a German neighbor or friend to an orientation followed by refreshments.

"Most of the local people who attend these events at the Marshall Center are floored to learn that the work we do here influences the entire European and Eurasian region," said Deputy Chief of Public Affairs and project officer Laura DeFrancisco.

"The feedback we get from them is how surprised they are that their town of Garmisch-Partenkirchen plays such a huge role in world affairs," she said.

Marshall Center Director John P. Rose has made outreach to the local German community a priority.

The Marshall Center is a German and American partnership – and it is important for the German people to know that, he said.